

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A fluid level verification apparatus comprising:
  - a transparent tubular sight member defining a conduit and having oppositely disposed ends;
  - a shield member adapted to receive the tubular sight member with oppositely disposed ends, said shield member encasing said sight member;
  - a counter bore formed within the shield member inwardly spaced from each respective end;
  - first and second end blocks each having a plurality of faces, said end blocks respectively lying perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a respective end block bore which extends between a pair of oppositely disposed faces;
  - an annular skirt, said annular skirt being formed on another face of each said end blocks adjacent to said bore, said skirt including a through bore;
  - each of said skirts having a circumferential groove formed about a periphery thereof, said skirts each being respectively engageable with the conduit of the tubular sight member; and
  - said shield member including an indentation internally forming a secured relationship with said end blocks and said shield member, said indentation forming a detent in said shield member proximate to said groove.
2. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 1 wherein the shield member has an opening so that the sight member is externally visible.
3. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 1 wherein a sealing means is positioned between each end of the sight member and each respective annular skirt to thereby provide a sealing fit between each of said end blocks and the respective end of said tubular sight member.
4. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one fastening means adapted to be received with at least one of said bores and being in fluid communication with said sight member.
5. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a thermometer, said thermometer housed within said sight member.
6. (withdrawn) A fluid level verification apparatus comprising:
  - a transparent tubular sight member defining a conduit and having oppositely disposed ends;
  - a shield member adapted to receive the tubular sight member with oppositely disposed ends, said shield member encasing said sight member;
  - said shield member extending longitudinally beyond said sight member at both ends of said sight member;
  - said shield member having an opening on at least one side so that said sight member may be externally visible;

an undercut groove formed within the shield member inwardly spaced from each respective end;

first and second end blocks each having a plurality of faces, said end blocks respectively lying perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a respective end block bore which extends between a pair of oppositely disposed faces;

a nipple, said nipple being formed on another face of each said end blocks adjacent to said bore, said nipple including a through bore, said nipple and through bore being in fluid communication with the conduit of said sight member;

each of said nipples having an outwardly tapered circumferential exterior surface, said exterior surface engageable with said shield member; and

said shield member including an indentation internally forming a secured relationship with said end blocks and said shield member, said indentation forming a detent in said shield member proximate to said undercut groove.

7. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 6 further comprising first and second fastening means adapted to be received within said bores and being in fluid communication with said sight member.

8. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 6 further including a sealing means located between said shield member and each of said respective end blocks.

9. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 8 wherein a recessed bevel is formed on one face of each end block, said bevel being inwardly tapered to receive and retain said sealing means.

10. (withdrawn) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 6 wherein a thermometer is located within the conduit of the tubular sight member.

11. (currently amended) A fluid level verification apparatus for a fluid container, the apparatus comprising:

a transparent tubular sight member defining a conduit and having oppositely disposed ends;

a shield member having a cylindrical bore adapted to receive the tubular sight member ~~having a cylindrical bore~~;

a pair of longitudinally spaced apart end members each having hollow interiors, the respective end members each having a cylindrical projection extending therefrom in facing and axially aligned relationship with said sight member;

each of said projections having an axial through bore communicating with the hollow interior of a corresponding end member and further including a circumferential surface exteriorly thereof; and

said circumferential surface including at least one circumferential groove located at a preselected location intermediate the ends of said of a respective one of each of said projections; wherein

said exterior surfaces of said cylindrical projections each additionally tapered outwardly from a respective end member and in a direction toward said sight member, said circumferential groove in said exterior surface being in a mating relationship with said detent in said shield member;

said shield member including an indentation internally extending inwardly of the interior surface of said through bore and in secured relationship with a respective one of said end blocks members and onto said shield member, said indentation forming a detent in said shield member at said bore.

12. (original) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 11 further including a sealing means positioned between said shield member and each said respective end member.

13. (original) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 11 further including a fastening means connecting at least one of said end members to said fluid container for mounting the apparatus.

14. (previously amended) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 13 wherein said hollow fastening means comprises a headed bolt extending in fore and aft direction through the hollow end member.

15. (previously amended) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 14 wherein said sealing means surrounds the bolt at the front and rear of the end member to seal the member against the bolt head and tank respectively.

16. (original) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 11 wherein a thermometer is located within the conduit of said tubular sight member.

17. (withdrawn) A method for assembling a fluid level verification apparatus for a fluid container, said method comprising:

providing a shield member having an internal bore for encasing a sight member;

placing said tubular sight member having a through bore within said shield member;

inserting an end member into substantial engagement with the respective end of the bore of said shield member and into sealing engagement with the sight tube through bore; and

simultaneously indenting opposite sides of the ends of the shield member.

18. (withdrawn) A method for assembling a fluid level verification apparatus for a fluid container, said method comprising:

providing a shield member having an internal bore for encasing a sight member;

placing said tubular sight member having a through bore within said shield member;

inserting an end member into substantial engagement with the respective end of the bore of said shield member and into sealing engagement with the sight tube through bore;

indenting a first side proximal the end of the shield member; and  
indenting a second side proximal the end of the shield member.

19. (withdrawn) A method for connecting respective end members to a shield member in a fluid level verification apparatus thereby sealing the end members to the said shield member, the method comprising the steps of:

placing outwardly tapered axial projections of the respective end members inside openings formed in the shield member ends;

abutting the tapered axial projections of said end members to respective sealing means which are positioned inside the shield member between the ends of the tubular sight member and the axial projections of the respective said end members; and

indenting the ends of said shield member so as to clamp said shield member onto the tapered projections of the said end members.

20. (previously added) The fluid level verification apparatus of claim 11 wherein said tubular sight member comprises an inner diameter, each of said end member cylindrical projections being coaxially and radially spaced with relation to said inner diameter of said tubular sight member.

21. (cancelled)